

Message Text

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 170800Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0749

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 4500

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USDOCOSOUTH, USEUCOM, USCINCEUR, DIA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MOPS, CY, TU

SUBJECT: KARPASS TRIP REPORT

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFFS VISITED KARPASS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE WAR. LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY SIGHTED. ECONOMY REMAINS STAGNANT. MAINLAND GOVERNOR ON ISLAND; LOCAL MILITARY LEADERSHIP DIVIDED. OBSERVATIONS INDICATE TURK CYPRIOT POPULATION MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS VISITED KARPASS ON CONSULAR BUSINESS DECEMBER 12 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE AUGUST CEASE FIRE. ROUTE FOLLOWED WAS NICOSIA-KHIKOMO-KOUTSOVENDIS-MIA MILEA-FAMAGUSTS-LOGHAZ YIALOUSA. DIRECT ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM TURKISH SECTION OF NICOSIA TO MIA MILEA STILL FAR FROM COMPLETION.

3. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY OBSERVED. IN AREA KHIKOMO-KOUTSOVENDIS EMBOFFS RAN INTO TWO GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MAINLAND COMMANDOS UNDERGOING PT TRAINING. SMALLER GROUP INFANTRY TROOPS WERE CONDUCTING FIELD EXERCISE WITH FULL EQUIPMENT IN SAME AREA. THERE NO

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APPEARANCE OF ANY ALERT. SOME APPARENT TRACKED VEHICLE

ACTIVITY SPOTTED IN VICINITY TYMBOU AIRFIELD BUT THIS WAS TOO FAR FROM MAIN ROAD FOR ACCURATE DESCRIPTION.

4. MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (DIVISIONAL HQS?) PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN ANGASTINA HAS BEEN MOVED, WITH ONLY SMALL GROUP MAINLAND SOLDIERS REMAINING. PAINT SHOP SAME VILL STILL BUSY CONVERTING CIVILIAN VEHICLES TO MILITARY USE. ONLY FEW ROAD BLOCKS REMAIN IN PLACE BETWEEN NICOSIA AND FAMAGUSTA, AND TRAFFIC MOVES ALMOST UNIMPEDED.

5. ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSES HAVE BEEN ERECTED AROUND FAMAGUSTA PORT, MOST NOTICEABLY ABOUT 3/4 MILE NORTH OF MAIN PIER. IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF TOWN "TANK REGIMENT" MANNING BARRICADES. BOGHAZ PATROLLED BY TURKISH NAVY SP'S ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNDS. NO BOATS OBSERVED IN PORT OR OFFSHORE. TURK CYPRIOT TMT IN CONTROL NORTH OF BOGHAZ AND EMBOFFS FAILED SIGHT ANY MAILAND FORCES. FREQUENT CHECK POINTS BETWEEN FAMAGUSTA AND YIALOUSA.

6. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY STILL LIGHT IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA. DESPITE ESTABLISHMENT "STATE FARM" AND RELOCATION SOME SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS, BETWEEN NICOSIA-FAMAGUSTA-KARPASS, APPEARED THAT ONLY APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF LAND WAS UNDER CULTIVATION. LARGE AMOUNT OF HAY WAS ROTTING UNGATHERED IN FIELDS WHILE MUCH OF THIS YEAR'S TOBACCO CROP WAS OBSERVED UNHARVESTED, THOUGH IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN COLLECTED TWO MONTHS AGO. MINDEF OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED EMBOFFS COMPLAINED BITTERLY OVER TURK CYPRIOT VILLAGERS LACK OF INITIATIVE. SAID THEY PREFERRED LOOTING ABANDONED GREEK HOMES TO ACTUALLY WORKING. IN HIS VIEW, LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE EQUALLY CORRUPT AND INEPT AT DEVELOPING AREA GIVEN THEM BY TURKISH ARMY.

7. ASIDE FROM TRIKOMO, VERY FEW TURK CYPRIOTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN KARPASS. EMBOFFS NOTED ONLY FEW ABANDONED GREEK HOUSES BEING OCCUPIED, THOUGH MOST HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY RANSACKED. AREA WAS MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM NORTH COAST, WHERE MAJOR EFFORT UNDERWAY TO TURKIFY REGION. EXCEPTION WAS NORTH OF FAMAGUSTA CITY, WHERE MAINLAND TURKISH HOTEL WORKERS BEING IMPORTED TO REACTIVATE TOURIST FACILITIES.

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8. GREEK AND MIXED VILLAGES VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED BY FIGHTING. ONLY EPHTAKOMI HAD BULLET HOLES IN SOME HOUSES. FATE OF FORMER GREEK INHABITANTS SEVERAL ABANDONED VILLAGES UNEXPLAINED. VILLAGES TOO FAR FROM CEASE FIRE LINE FOR INHABITANTS TO HAVE ESCAPED BEFORE TURKISH ARMY CLOSED RING AND THERE NO EVIDENCE THEY CONCENTRATED IN OTHER NEIGHBORING VILLAGES. MIN DEF OFFICIAL HINTED THAT SOMETHING REPREHENSIBLE HAD TRANSPIRED BUT REFUSED ELABORATE.

9. SAME OFFICIAL, FOLLOWING ALCOHOLIC DINNER, SAID DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO FAMAGUSTA AND KARPASS HAD BEEN RESULT DISPUTE BETWEEN SANCKTAR (REGIONAL TMT MAINLAND COMMANDER) AND BAYRAKTAR (OVERALL MAINLAND COMMANDER OF TMT), RATHER THAN ORGANIZED EFFORT EXCLUDE FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. SAID SANCAKTAR HAD REPEATEDLY FAILED PERMIT MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS CARRY OUT FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED BY NICOSIA. EMBARRASSMENT OVER THIS IMPASSE HAD LED TO BAN ON DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY UNTIL COMMAND ISSUED CLARIFIED. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT GENERALS DEMIREL AND POLAT WERE TOO INVOLVED IN PURELY MILITARY AFFAIRS TO INJECT THEMSELVES INTO DISPUTE.

10. TRIP APPEARS INDICATE THAT CONFLICT REMAINS UNRESOLVED. TRIO OF UNMARKED CARS WITH SANCAKTAR OFFICERS IN CIVILIAN DRESS SHADOWED EMBOFFS (AND MIN DEF OFFICIAL) THROUGHOUT DAY. AT ONE POINT BEHAVIOR BECAME SO BLATENT THAT OFFICIAL LEFT EMBOFFS ALONE WITH LOCALS WHILE HE WENT OUTSIDE TO REMONSTRATE WITH SANCAKTAR OFFICERS. DESPITE THIS, TAIL REMAINED UNTIL EMBOFFS LEFT KARPASS. CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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11. IN ASIDE, MIN DEF OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS A MAIMEAND GOVERNOR ON ISLAND COORDINATING CIVILIAN AFFAIRS. NOTED THAT UNUSUALLY STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ADOPTED TO PREVENT GOVERNOR'S IDENTITY BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. AS EXAMPLE, HE SAID TURK CYPRIOT DRIVER WAS IMMEDIATELY FIRED FOR REVEALING GOVERNOR'S IDENTITY TO TMT SOLDIER* OFFICIAL SAID 28TH DIVISION COMMANDER GEN POLAT ALSO ADOPTING STRICT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. CLAIMED POLAT TRAVELING AROUND IN SIX CARS, ROTATING THEM TO ESCAPE DETECTION. (POLAT MAY BE CAR BUFF RATHER THAN SECURITY HOUND. AMONG VEHICLES NOTED BY OFFICIAL WERE MERCEDES LIMOUSINE AND BMW. WE DOUBT THERE ANY REAL THREAT TO POLAT'S SAFETY.)

12. COMMENT: SEVERAL CLEAR THEMES EMERGED FROM VISIT. FIRST, TURK CYPRIOTS ARE ENCOUNTERING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN REACTIVATING NORTHERN ECONOMY. SECOND, MAINLAND CONTROL IS INCREASING AS TURK CYPRIOTS DEMONSTRATE THEIR INABILITY HANDLE PROBLEM. THIRD, THERE STILL ROOM FOR CONSIDERABLE NUMBER GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES RETURN TO HOMES IN KARPASS. FOURTH, THERE MAY BE FAR FEWER TURK CYPRIOTS ON ISLAND THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. WHILE THERE NO RPT NO FIRM

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FIGURES FOR THOSE ESTABLISHED IN NORTH, AND ONLY ROUGH ESTIMATES FOR SOUTHERN TURKS, IT POSSIBLE TOTAL POPULATION MAY NOT RPT NOT GREATLY EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND. REALIZATION OF THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR INCREASIMDLY HARD LINE RE MOVEMENT REMAINING SOUTHERN TURKS; WHILE IMPORTED HOTEL WORKERS MAY MARK FIRST WAVE IN IMMIGRATION FROM MAINLAND. CRAWFORD

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